



To create a world in which the arts are universally accessible.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VSA Florida
University of South Florida
www.vsafl.org

CONTACT: Wendy Finklea,
Director of Programs
wfinklea@usf.edu
813.974.0715

Students on the Spectrum Get REAL at USF This Summer!

*Media and photo opportunities available with advance notice.

For a video on our 2016 camp, visit <http://thefloridachannel.org/videos/capitol-update-extended-animation-camp-autistic-students/>

(Tampa, FL) June 26, 2017

VSA Florida, arts and disability leaders headquartered at the University of South Florida will join forces with the USF iTeach Lab the week of July 17-21st in the College of Education to provide *Animation Gets Real 2017*, a rich Anime experience for teens with autism and related disabilities. Now in its fourth year, this weeklong, full-day summer camp program offers 30 students the opportunity to develop experiential computer animation and digital music making skills like none other. The camp is taught by Dani Bowman, founder of Powerlight Studios in Los Angeles (who herself has autism). Dani developed the program under the tutelage of Joey Travolta, an internationally recognized actor, producer and founder of Inclusion Films and Camps (and brother of John Travolta).

Research shows that many children and young adults with autism excel in the arts and exposure to digital animation and music creation can be the foundation for successful and self-supporting careers leveraging their unique skills. One of VSAFL's major goals is to provide opportunities for students who aspire to a career in the arts to develop their skills, and the *Animation Gets Real* summer camp directly relates to this goal.

Ms. Bowman takes the students on a systematic journey to learn the basic process of computer animation using ToonBoom software creating unique characters that can do almost anything...run, dance and even speak! While the camp focuses on the digital skills of animation, significant time is spent on storyboarding, writing, and editing as well as developing collaboration and social skills.

Dr. Clint Randles, Associate Professor of Music Education in the School of Music at USF and a renowned scholar/researcher in innovative teaching methods, will familiarize campers to iPad music making and animation voice over techniques. He will introduce students to a variety of iPad apps including Garage Band, Drums XD and Thumb Jam as they create their original pieces.

Board of Directors:

Executive Committee:

Katie Molloy
President
Tampa

David Handera
Vice President
Jacksonville

Dr. Bill Heller
Treasurer
St. Petersburg

Susan Gallo
Secretary
Jacksonville

Board Members:

Francine Andersen
Miami

Allison Galloway-Gonzalez
Jacksonville

Susan Law
Jacksonville

Dr. Suzanne Martin
Orlando

Merry Lynn Morris
Tampa

Dr. Daphne Thomas
Tampa

Dr. Daryl Ward
Lakeland

Rep. Alan Williams
Tallahassee

Ex Officio:

Dr. William R. Black
Tampa

Dr. Monica Verra-Tirado
Tallahassee

Aimee Mallini Kowalczyk
Tallahassee

Jennifer Sabo
Executive Director



To create a world in which the arts are universally accessible.

All camp participants and family members are invited to participate in a culmination event on Friday afternoon, giving camp participants a chance to highlight what they have learned during the week.

About VSA Florida:

VSA Florida (VSAFL) provides, supports and champions arts education and cultural experiences for and by people with disabilities. A private not-for-profit organization, VSAFL conducts art education programs in schools, Department of Juvenile Justice facilities, and community centers; promotes the accomplishments of artists with disabilities through our artist registry, exhibitions, and performances; and increases access to the arts through professional development workshops. VSA Florida is a member of the VSA Affiliate Network (a program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C.) and is headquartered in the College of Education at the University of South Florida.

####